

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
6 May 2004 (06.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/038622 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

G06F 17/60

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2003/004519

(22) International Filing Date: 21 October 2003 (21.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

0224589.2 22 October 2002 (22.10.2002) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BT GROUP LEGAL [GB/GB]; Intellectual Property Department, PP C5A - BR Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SHIPMAN, Robert, Andrew [GB/GB]; 19 LYSANDER DRIVE, RAVENSWOOD, IPSWICH, Suffolk IP3 9TL (GB).

(74) Agent: WALLIN, Nicholas, James; BT Group Legal Intellectual Property Department, Holborn Centre, 8th Floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

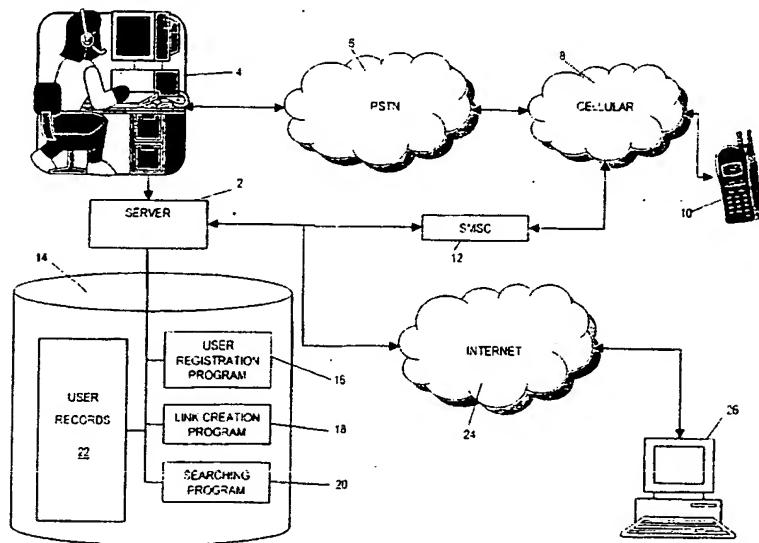
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING OR SEARCHING USER RECORDS



WO 2004/038622 A1

(57) Abstract: Preferably for use in a directory enquiries system, the invention provides a method and system for processing user records to determine common entries therebetween. When two user records are determined to store common information then link data is generated (18) and stored in each user record (22) indicating a link between the two records. This link information is then used in subsequent searching (20) of the user records to determine the most likely result from a list of possible results obtained from a search of the user records. In a directory enquiries system (14) the user records contain user ID and telephone number details as well as address book data of each user's friends, family, or other acquaintances. The address book data is used to determine whether a link between user records should be formed.